

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12378 070926Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-09 DOE-15 SOE-02

COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-07 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 NSC-05

SS-15 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-01 /120 W

-----042137 080522Z /62

R 070917Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9423

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: DSP CHAIRMAN SASAKI RETURNS FROM U.S.

1. DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY (DSP) CHAIRMAN RYOSAKU SASAKI RETURNED FROM OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S. AND EUROPE JULY 3, AND DURING HOUR-LONG REPORT ON TRIP TO PRIMIN FUKUDA JULY 6, REPORTEDLY URGED PRIMIN TO TAKE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO STIMULATE ECONOMY AND FURTHER LIBERALIZE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS TO HELP SOLVE ADVANCED NATIONS' CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, SASAKI ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT PRIMIN SHOULD JOIN WITH EC NATIONS IN PRESSING U.S. TO REDUCE OIL IMPORTS AT BONN SUMMIT.

2. DURING POST-VISIT BRIEFING FOR EMBOFF JULY 5, DSP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER KEIGO OUCHI, WHO ACCOMPANIED SASAKI, SAID THAT DSP WASHINGTON VISIT HAD BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL IN CLARIFYING PARTY'S UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POLICY. OUCHI NOTED THAT DELEGATION HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED IN MEETINGS WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, STR STRAUSS AND TREASURY UNDERSECRETARY SOLOMON BY U.S. VIEW THAT SOLUTION OF CURRENT U.S. AND JAPAN TRADE PROBLEMS DEPENDED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 12378 070926Z

ON FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF JAPANESE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. HE ALSO SAID THAT REMARKS BY UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM AND ASST. SECRETARY HOLBROOKE HAD CLARIFIED U.S. POLICY TOWARD PRC, WHICH HAD BECOME SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE PRESS SPECULATION RECENTLY. SESSION ON DEFENSE ISSUES WITH ASST. SECRETARY DUNCAN HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY VALUABLE FOR ITS FRANKNESS, AND DSP, SAID OUCHI, WOULD FULLY RESPECT

CONFIDENTIALITY OF THOSE TALKS. FINALLY, HE INDICATED MEETINGS WITH SENATOR SPARKMAN AND REPRESENTATIVE ZABLOCKI HAD CONVINCED DSP LEADERSHIP OF DEPTH OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN TRADE ISSUE.

3. OUCHI ALSO SAID THAT DURING EUROPEAN LEG OF TRIP, WHICH INCLUDED VISITS TO BONN AND BRUSSELS, FRG AND EC OFFICIALS HAD ASSERTED THAT U.S. ENERGY IMPORT AND INFLATION POLICIES HAD BEEN INEFFECTIVE. OUCHI, READING FROM NOTES OF HIS MEETING, SAID THAT WEST GERMAN FINANCE MINISTER MATTHOFER TOLD DSP THAT AT BONN SUMMIT FRG WOULD REJECT FURTHER U.S. REQUESTS FOR GREATER WEST GERMAN EFFORTS TO STIMULATE ECONOMY UNLESS WASHINGTON PROVIDED CONVINCING EVIDENCE IT HAD TAKEN STEPS TO LOWER OIL IMPORTS AND CONTROL RISING PRICES. OUCHI SAID DSP SYMPATHIZED WITH WEST GERMAN POSITION BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO URGE THAT GOJ TAKE ADDITIONAL STIMULATORY MEASURES THIS FALL TO INSURE JAPAN ACHIEVES PROMISED 7 PERCENT GNP GROWTH RATE.

4. OUCHI SAID HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY PRAGMATIC ATTITUDE OF FRG AND SPD LEADERS ON DEFENSE ISSUES, AND SAID DSP RETURNED MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT JAPAN NEEDED TO DEVELOP KIND OF NATIONAL CONSENSUS SUPPORTING GREATER SELF-DEFENSE EFFORTS THAT EXISTS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 12378 070926Z

5. COMMENT: FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, SASAKI VISIT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTING SEVERAL KEY U.S. OBJECTIVES IN JAPAN, INCLUDING ENCOURAGING GREATER EXPANSION OF JAPANESE IMPORTS AND MORE REALISTIC THINKING ABOUT DEFENSE ISSUES. WE BELIEVE SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN SASAKI ON THIS, HIS FIRST VISIT ABROAD AS DSP CHAIRMAN, WILL FURTHER ENCOURAGE DSP TO TAKE RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO U.S. UNUSUALLY EXPANSIVE PRESS COVERAGE OF SASAKI'S TRIP, INCLUDING FRONT-PAGE STORIES ON MEETINGS WITH V.P. MONDALE AND STR STRAUSS, ALSO PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR ADMINISTRATION LEADERS TO CONVEY THEIR CONCERNS TO NATIONAL JAPANESE AUDIENCE. MANSFIELD

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